MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Did the Government come to the conclusion that better irrigational facilities should be provided for the Punja?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: Facilities to the extent possible have already been provided.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Have the Government decided to increase further irrigational facilities?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: Not at the present time.

Alleppey-Shertalai Canal.

282 * **MR. XAVIER VINCENT** (*Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertalai*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the length of the portion of the Alleppey-Shertalai Canal that has been constructed;

(*b*) the length of the portion that still remains to be constructed;

(*c*) when the canal work was started;

(*d*) the amount that has been spent on that work up-to-date; and

(*e*) why its completion is being delayed?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: (*a*) 5 miles, 3083 feet.

(*b*) 7 miles, 4517 feet.

(*c*) 1090 M. E.

(*d*) Rs. 6,51,299.

(*e*) It has been decided not to proceed with this work.

Petitions from the ryots of Kulapattom Ela.

283 * **MR. K. A. MATHEW:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received petitions from the ryots of Kulapattom Ela, Keezhattingal pakuthi, Chirayinkil taluk that the bund and sluice destroyed during the floods in 1108 and subsequent years be restored;

(*b*) what action if any has been taken on these petitions; and

(*c*) whether they are aware that the productivity of about 75 acres of paddy land continues to be materially affected by the delay in the execution of this work?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) An estimate has been prepared and is under scrutiny.

(*c*) Yes.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: May I know when this estimate was prepared?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: The petition was received in August 1943, *i. e.*, towards the early part of 1119, and the estimate has already been prepared in the current year.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: The damage occurred in 1108 and it came to the notice of Government only in 1119. Is that what I am to understand?

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MR. I. C. CHACKO: The representation was received by the Department only in 1119.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Is there any probability of the work being undertaken during the course of this year?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: The estimate has been got ready.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Has the Department asked for an allotment for this year's Budget?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: I am not sure. Even though there is no allotment there would be no difficulty if the ryots agree.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: May I know whether the Department will push through this work at least this year?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: In all probability it will be taken up this year.

Beggars in Travancore.

284. * MR. K. R. NARAYANAN: Will the Government be pleased to state at least in general the number of beggars in Travancore?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER (*Secretary to Government*): According to the Census of 1941 the number of beggars and vagrants in the State is 7971.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN: ഭിക്ഷക്കാരെ തമ്മിൽ തരം തിരിച്ചറിയുന്നതിനു എന്തെങ്കിലും വ്യവസ്ഥയുണ്ടോ?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: അതിനു പ്രത്യേകം വ്യവസ്ഥയൊന്നുമില്ല.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN: ഈ ഉത്തരത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നതു അവഞ്ഞുനടക്കുന്ന ഭിക്ഷക്കാരെ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചാണോ?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: അതെ.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN: തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ യാചന നിർത്തുന്നതിനു എന്തെങ്കിലും നടപടി എടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: ആ ചോദ്യം ഇപ്പോൾ ഉൽഭവിക്കുന്നില്ല.

Bridges in Karunagapalli and Kartikapalli.

285 *MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: Will the Government be pleased to state whether any proposal is pending before them to construct bridges at Pulikil in Kartikapalli and one at Puthupally in Karunagapalli?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: No.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: May I know whether the honourable the Chief Engineer has visited those localities?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: Yes, Sir.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: Has he appreciated the difficulties experienced by the public for want of that bridge?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: That is why ferry services are plying in both those places.

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